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According to further aspects of the invention, the concrete-based mortar has, by weight, at least fifty-percent of particles greater than 0.18 millimeters in diameter and at least two-percent of particles greater than 1.2 millimeters in diameter. The accelerant has inorganic salts and halogens and includes, by weight, chloride ions in an amount of approximately twenty-five percent.

In the Claims

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Please amend the claims as follows:

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2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar having by weight at least fifty-percent of particles greater than 0.18 millimeters in diameter and at least two-percent of particles greater than 1.2 millimeters in diameter.

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4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of mixing the concrete-based mortar further comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar with the accelerant having chloride ions in an amount of approximately twenty-five percent by weight of the accelerant.

7. (Amended) A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, an accelerant and water to form a resulting composition that sets within three hours;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

allowing the resulting composition to set on the building for a period of at least two hours, wherein the resulting composition sufficiently hardens to prevent reformation; and

removing an exterior portion of the resulting composition, wherein the time from applying the resulting composition to removing the exterior portion of the resulting composition does not exceed three hours.

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Please add the following new claims:

21. A method of applying a concrete-based mortar to a building comprising the steps of:

mixing a concrete-based mortar, an accelerant and water to form a resulting composition that hardens in approximately three hours time or less;

applying the resulting composition to an exterior of a building;

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allowing the resulting composition to harden on the building for a time sufficient to prevent reformation of the composition; and

removing an exterior portion of the mortar surface after the step of allowing the resulting composition to set.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of mixing a concrete-based mortar comprises mixing the concrete-based mortar having approximately two percent or more by weight of particles approximately 1 millimeter or greater in diameter.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of removing an exterior portion comprises scraping a rough trowel against the exterior portion of the mortar surface to remove at least a portion of the particles approximately 1 millimeter or greater in diameter from the exterior portion of the mortar surface.